

COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 West School Street | Columbus, Wisconsin 53925 | 920.623.5950 | www.columbus.k12.wi.us

NEWSLETTER

April, 2018

Issue #27

2018 Columbus School District Community Survey

In October 2016, the Columbus School District community came together to create a long-term strategic plan titled Launching a New Legacy. Through this process, the community identified priorities in the areas of facilities, STEAM, social needs, programs, community partnerships and technology. In October 2017, we held a one-year anniversary celebration event where the District shared with the community the work they have done to date towards the priority goals. At this event, the community representatives and administration requested more input and feedback from the community as a whole. With that request in mind, the District has compiled a community-wide survey.

How Can I Complete the Survey?

Columbus School District community members are invited to **complete the survey** online at www.columbus.k12.wi.us between April 9 and April 22. If you do not have internet access, you may complete the paper survey included in this newsletter and return it **before April 22** to the District Office, 200 W. School Street, Columbus, WI 53925.

What is Being Asked in the Survey?

The survey asks demographic questions to help the District better understand the community and how it engages with the District. The survey also asks opinion questions about the five Launch priorities including facilities, STEAM, social needs, community partnerships and technology.

Is the Survey Anonymous?

Yes. Unless you write personally identifiable information in a text box, the survey is anonymous.

Who is Administering This Survey and What Does it Cost?

Columbus School District administration is working through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Educational Leadership program to administer this survey. That is why you will see the UW logo on the survey itself. With the exception of this newsletter mailing (*which is an annually budgeted expense*), there are no additional costs to the District.

Why is the District Doing this Survey?

The District values the opinions, beliefs and needs of their stakeholders, and this survey is a strong tool for better understanding. Every member of the community is affected by the priorities identified in the Launching a New Legacy strategic plan. It is exceptionally important for administration to know community opinion before taking the next steps in implementing that plan. Please make your voice heard by completing the survey at www.columbus.k12.wi.us by April 22.

How Long Will the Survey Take Me?

The online survey should take approximately 15 minutes. The survey software saves your responses each time you click the forward arrow. You may stop and continue later as long as you use the same computer and web browser.

What is Being Done With the Results of the Survey?

The results of the survey will be reported to the community at an event to be held later this spring. At this event, the school board will invite members of the public to join the Columbus School District Needs Assessment Committee, a volunteer group comprised of community members supported by staff members with the charge of researching and identifying the District's needs in the Launch priority areas of facilities, STEAM, social needs, programs, partnerships and technology. This group will report their findings to the school board in late fall 2018, which will mark the next steps of Launching forward together.

Please complete the following questions.

Reminder: This survey is **anonymous**.

What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 – 24
- ☐ 25 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 44
- ☐ 45 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 64
- ☐ 65 – 74
- ☐ 75 – 84
- ☐ 85 or older

**You can also
complete this survey
online at
www.columbus.k12.wi.us**

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

What is your employment status?

- ☐ Employed full time
- ☐ Employed part time
- ☐ Unemployed looking for work
- ☐ Unemployed not looking for work
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Disabled

What is your housing situation?

- ☐ Own home
- ☐ Rent home/apartment
- ☐ Other (please describe) _____
- ☐ Homeless

If you own or rent, do you live in the Columbus School District?

Are your property taxes paid to Columbus School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

How many adults 18 years old or over live in your home?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ More than 4

How many children under 18 years old live in your household?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ More than 4

**Mission: Community,
Career & College Ready**

If you have school aged children, what schools do they attend?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ Columbus Elementary School – including all community 4K sites
- ☐ Columbus Middle School
- ☐ Columbus High School
- ☐ Columbus area parochial school
- ☐ Open enrollment out to a public school other than Columbus school
- ☐ Virtual School
- ☐ Homeschool

What is your household income?

- ☐ Less than \$15,000
- ☐ \$15,000 - \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 - \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 - \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 - \$99,999
- ☐ More than \$100,000

How long have you lived in the Columbus School District?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1 – 4 years
- ☐ 5 – 9 years
- ☐ 10 – 24 years
- ☐ More than 25 years

What is your highest level of education?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school graduate
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ 2-year degree
- ☐ 4-year degree
- ☐ Professional degree
- ☐ Doctorate

Are you an owner, manager or leader of an employer within the Columbus School District area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you a leader of a community service or volunteer group

(Kiwanis, PTO, Boosters, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please tell us how often you receive your daily LOCAL news from the following sources:

	Always	Most of the Time	Sometimes	Never
Radio Station	☐	☐	☐	☐
Television News	☐	☐	☐	☐
Newspaper – Beaver Dam Daily Citizen	☐	☐	☐	☐
Newspaper – Columbus Journal	☐	☐	☐	☐
Online news source – other than a newspaper	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Media - Facebook	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Media – Twitter, SnapChat or Other	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other (describe)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Local News continued...

Which radio station? _____
 Which television station? _____
 Which online news source? _____
 Web address: _____
 Social Media –preferred? _____

How often do you receive Columbus School District News from the following outlets?

	Seldom	Regularly	Often
District Newsletter Mailing	☐	☐	☐
District Website	☐	☐	☐
District Facebook Page	☐	☐	☐
District Twitter Account	☐	☐	☐
School Principal Newsletter	☐	☐	☐
Email	☐	☐	☐
Columbus Journal Newspaper	☐	☐	☐
PeachJar E-News	☐	☐	☐
Viewing School Board Meetings Online	☐	☐	☐
Viewing School Board Meetings on Local Access Channel	☐	☐	☐
980 News Local Access segment	☐	☐	☐

Have you visited the:

- Columbus Elementary School or Discovery Charter School in the last five years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Columbus Middle School in the last five years? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Columbus High School in the last five years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you volunteered at a Columbus School in the last five years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Did you attend or graduate from Columbus School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please share with us what year you graduated? _____

If yes, would you be willing to become a member of the alumni association? Please contact Pam Zander to register at pzander@columbus.k12.wi.us or 920-623-5950.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I did not graduate from Columbus School District

Are you an employee of the Columbus School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Launch Priority #1

Create a community campus by building needed facilities and amenities.

The Launching a New Legacy committee identified facilities as the most significant priority with the strategic goal to "create a community campus by building needed facilities and amenities." The following questions relate to facilities.

In the Launch priority statement, the term "community campus" refers to a facility or a collection of facilities where children and adults can access education for career, college and community readiness. How important do you feel it is to have facilities for the following family or adult programs?

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not at all Important
Adult Career Preparedness Education and Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult College Preparedness Education and Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family Living and Consumer Science Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Foreign Language Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Health Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
HSED (High School Education Certificate)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mental Health Education and Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal Enrichment Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal Finance and Business Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical and Exercise Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Substance Abuse Education and Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

The Launch Priority created by the community calls to "Create a community campus by building the needed facilities and amenities." Do you agree with this statement?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What is your favorite facility or physical feature of the Columbus School District?

You can complete this survey online at www.columbus.k12.wi.us

Do you believe the following facilities are safe and secure?

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably Not	Definitely Not
Columbus Elementary School and Discovery Charter School	☐	☐	☐	☐
Columbus Middle School	☐	☐	☐	☐
Columbus High School	☐	☐	☐	☐
Columbus District Office	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please advise the Columbus School Board on the facility needs you believe should be studied.

	Yes, this need should be studied	No, this need should not be studied
Classroom/instructional space capacity	☐	☐
Classroom/instructional space technology integration	☐	☐
Energy efficiency of buildings	☐	☐
Gymnasium spaces conditions/usage	☐	☐
Infrastructure condition and maintenance at elementary school	☐	☐
Infrastructure condition and maintenance at high school	☐	☐
Infrastructure condition and maintenance at middle school	☐	☐
Other indoor athletic spaces (weight room, lockers rooms, etc.)	☐	☐
Outdoor athletic spaces usage and condition	☐	☐
Outdoor features (parking lots, green spaces, etc.)	☐	☐
Safe and secure buildings	☐	☐
Safe and secure entrances	☐	☐
STEAM instructional spaces (labs, shops, greenhouse, etc.)	☐	☐

Is there a facility need not listed above that you feel needs to be studied? Please tell us about it.

Launch Priority #2

Expand hands on STEAM opportunities for all students.

The second priority of the Launching a New Legacy committee calls to "expand hands-on STEAM opportunities for all students." The following questions are **STEAM** education related.

STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, art, agriculture and mathematics. STEAM is an integrated approach to learning. Collaboration across disciplines encourages student inquiry, dialogue, critical thinking, authentic learning and creative problem solving. "STEAM ties ALL the subjects to each other in an interdisciplinary way as well as to the full spectrum of the rapidly changing business and professional world. It is a life-long career and life-readiness way of educating and learning that is adaptable to the rapidly changing global world we live in." (steamedu.com, 2015).

In your opinion or experience, is the Columbus School District offering valuable STEAM opportunities?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely No
- ☐ No Opinion

Do you feel the District's ability to offer STEAM opportunities is limited by the following?

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Course / Curricular Offerings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geographic Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of STEAM Co-Curricular Offerings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staffing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student Interest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

You can complete this survey online at www.columbus.k12.wi.us

Launch Priority #3

Address students' social needs (i.e. poverty, mental health) with community collaboration.

The third priority identified by the Launching a New Legacy committee calls to "address students' social needs with community collaboration." The following questions are intended to help identify the social needs in the Columbus School District community.

Reminder! This survey is anonymous.

Are you, a family member or friend in need of school aged daycare before or after-school?

- ☐ Yes, during the school year only.
- ☐ Yes, year round.
- ☐ No

Are you, a family member or a friend in need of infant or preschool aged daycare?

- ☐ Yes, during the school year only.
- ☐ Yes, year round.
- ☐ No

Do you feel your family has consistent access to affordable healthy meal options at home?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not

If English is your family's second language, does your family encounter language barriers in the community?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not
- ☐ This question does not apply to me

Within the Columbus area community, who do you and/or your family seek out for mental and emotional support?

- ☐ Friend/family member
- ☐ Mental health professional
- ☐ School guidance counselor
- ☐ Clergy or church leader
- ☐ Support group
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ I don't feel I have support to turn to

How much do you value the usefulness of the following skill sets or abilities being taught to students through STEAM courses?

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Moderately Useful	Slightly Useful	Not at all Useful
Authentic Learning or learning through real life situations and problems	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Collaboration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Creativity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Critical Thinking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Innovation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Problem Solving	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

It is the mission of the Columbus School District to empower students to be community, career and college ready. In your opinion or experience, are the Columbus School District STEAM opportunities preparing students to be...

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Career Reading?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
College Ready?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community Ready?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Results of this survey will be shared with the public this summer.

Have you seen evidence of an illegal drug use problem in the Columbus area?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not

Do you feel there are resources available in the Columbus area for individuals or families dealing with dependency issues (drugs and/or alcohol)?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not

Launch Priority #4

Offer a wide variety of course offerings and co-curricular activities to address students' needs.

The fourth priority identified by the Launching a New Legacy committee calls to "offer a wide variety of course offerings and co-curricular activities to address students' needs." The following questions will help identify these needs.

- ⊗ Curricular is defined as courses of study in school.
- ⊗ Co-curricular is defined as an activity pursued in addition to the curricular courses of study.

Do you feel it is important for the District to provide students with access to the following co-curricular opportunities?

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Academic Clubs (art, FFA, forensics, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interscholastic Athletics (football, volleyball, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leadership (Student Council, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music & Performing Arts (Pep band, theater, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Publications (newspaper)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Clubs (Gay Straight Alliance, Sign Language Club, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Are Columbus students limited in access to or achievement in co-curriculars because of the following?

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Staffing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Student Interest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geographic Area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of Course Offerings Related to the Co-Curricular	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What co-curriculars would you suggest the Columbus School District add or discontinue?

How important are the following academic curricular areas in accomplishing the District's mission? The mission of the Columbus School District is to prepare college, career and community ready graduates.

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not at all Important
Agriculture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Art and Design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
English Language Arts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family and Consumer Sciences	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information and Technology Literacy (formerly computer science)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Math	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal Finance Literacy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
School Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Science	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Studies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology and Engineering	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
World Languages	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How well is the Columbus School District currently doing in preparing students to be college, career or community ready in these curricular areas?

	Extremely Well	Very Well	Moderately Well	Slightly Well	Not Well at all
Agriculture	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Art and Design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Business	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
English Language Arts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family and Consumer Sciences	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information and Technology Literacy (formerly computer science)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Math	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal Finance Literacy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Physical Education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
School Counseling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Science	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social Studies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology and Engineering	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
World Languages	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Launch Priority #5

Develop and expand community partnerships.

The fifth priority identified by the Launching a New Legacy committee calls to "develop and expand community partnerships." The following questions will help the District identify current and future partnership opportunities and weaknesses.

A "community partnership" is defined as a mutually beneficial relationship to anchor the district's mission, vision and beliefs.

Do you feel it is important for the Columbus School District to partner with local employers?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ Definitely not

Thank you for participating in this survey.

If you are an owner, manager or leader of a Columbus area employer, do you have a partnership with the Columbus School District?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I/we used to but no longer do
- ☐ This question does not apply to me - I am not an employer

If you are an owner, manager or leader of a Columbus area employer, can you describe a partnership that has been or would be beneficial to your organization?

If you are an owner, manager or leader of a Columbus area employer, how would you evaluate your partnerships with the District?

- ☐ Extremely satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Extremely dissatisfied

Launch Priority #6

Implement and sustain up to date technology within the schools.

The sixth priority identified by the Launching a New Legacy committee calls to "implement and sustain up-to-date technology in the schools." The following are technology questions.

Do you have internet connection at your home? Please do not include cellular data plans in your answer.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Who is your internet provider? _____

In your opinion or experience, how well is the Columbus School District integrating technology into schools and education?

- ☐ Extremely well
- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Moderately well
- ☐ Slightly well
- ☐ Not well at all



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www.columbus.k12.wi.us

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BEFORE APRIL 22, 2018

Thank you for participating in the 2018 Columbus School District Community Survey. The goal of the survey is to include the opinions of the community in the planning of the next steps of Launching a New Legacy, the District's long-term strategic plan.

Key Information:

- The survey is anonymous.
- You may only complete the survey once.
- Respondents are encouraged to complete the survey **online at www.columbus.k12.wi.us**. If you do not have internet access, you may complete this paper form and **return** it to:
Columbus School District Office, 200 W. School Street, Columbus, WI 53925.
- The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- Contact Pam Zander with additional questions at pzander@columbus.k12.wi.us or 920-623-5950.

SURVEY BACKGROUND

In October 2016 the Columbus School District community came together to create a long-term strategic plan titled Launching a New Legacy. Through this process, the community identified priorities in the areas of facilities, STEAM, social needs, programs, community partnerships and technology. In October 2017 the one-year anniversary celebration event took place where the District shared with the community the work done to date towards the priority goals. At this event, the community representatives requested more input and feedback from the community as a whole. With that request in mind, the District has compiled a community-wide survey that will be available online and in the April newsletter.

The goal of the survey is to include the entire Columbus School District Community in the planning of the next steps of Launching a New Legacy. The results of the survey will be reported to the community at an event to be held later this spring. At this event, the school board will invite members of the public to join the Columbus School District Needs Assessment Committee, a volunteer group comprised of community members supported by staff members with the charge of researching and identifying the District's needs in the Launch priority areas of facilities, STEAM, social needs, programs, partnerships and technology. This group will report their findings to the school board in late fall 2018, which will mark the next steps of Launching forward.

The Columbus School District hopes to have a great survey response from the community as we Launch forward together!

PLEASE PROCEED TO REVIEW THE SURVEY